

Plan for the 21st Century: New Orleans 2030

What is the Master Plan?

The *Plan for the 21st Century*, commonly referred to as the Master Plan, is a City Charter-mandated planning framework for the core systems that shape New Orleans' physical, social, environmental, and economic future. The Plan for the 21st Century reflects the values and priorities that emerged through a community participation process and is grounded in information assembled for the first time in one place. In 2010, the Plan was unanimously adopted by both the City Planning Commission and the City Council and was signed by Mayor Mitchell Landrieu.

Can the Master Plan be amended?

The City Charter allows Master Plan amendment applications once per year and requires a Master Plan amendment application process at least once every five years. In 2012, the City Planning Commission and the City Council took action on the first set of Master Plan amendments.

How can I stay informed about opportunities to amend the Master Plan?

In early 2016, the City Planning Commission intends to open a new Master Plan amendment application period. The applications will undergo a public review process that involves meetings held in the community as well as formal public hearings. The entire process can take 12 to 18 months. You can stay updated on Master Plan amendment news through the CPC website: www.nola.gov/cpc. You can also sign up for email announcements by sending a request to cpcinfo@nola.gov.

How is the Master Plan related to the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance?

Upon adoption of the City's Master Plan in 2010, the CPC staff, with the assistance of a consultant team, began work on a complete overhaul of the City's Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO). The Master Plan – and the “force of law” provision added to the City Charter in 2008 – requires that the City's zoning be consistent with the Master Plan's land use provisions. A new Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance has been adopted and became effective August 12, 2015. The new CZO meets the City Charter's consistency requirement with the Master Plan.

In what other ways does the Master Plan affect governance and policy in New Orleans?

The Master Plan affects the City's prioritization of capital improvement needs, the location and design of transportation facilities, environmental regulations, housing policy, and other elements of City functions. The Master Plan's identification of a goal or strategy leads to implementation through laws or departmental budgets and actions. More specific issues or area plans may be incorporated into the Master Plan as it is considered a “living document” that is amended over time. Having an adopted Master Plan also assists in obtaining both public and private grants because it shows the community has laid the groundwork for specific actions.